

MICHAEL G. OXLEY, OH, CHAIRMAN

JAMES A. LEACH, IA
DOUG BEREUTER, NE
RICHARD H. BAKER, LA
SPENCER BACHUS, AL
MICHAEL N. CASTLE, DE
PETER T. KING, NY
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CA
FRANK D. LUCAS, OK
ROBERT W. NEY, OH
SUE W. KELLY, NY

Vice Chair

RON PAUL, TX
PAUL E. GILLMOR, OH
JIM RYUN, KS
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OH
DONALD A. MANZULLO, IL
WALTER B. JONES, Jr., NC
DOUG OSE, CA
JUDY BIGGERT, IL

MARK GREEN, WI
PATRICK J. TOOMEY, PA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CT
JOHN B. SHADEGG, AZ
VITO FOSSELLA, NY
GARY G. MILLER, CA
MELISSA A. HART, PA
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, WV
PATRICK J. TIBERI, OH
MARK R. KENNEDY, MN
TOM FEENEY, FL
JEB HENSARLING, TX
SCOTT GARRETT, NJ
TIM MURPHY, PA
GINNY BROWN-WAITE, FL
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SC
KATHERINE HARRIS, FL
RICK RENZI, AZ

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

BARNEY FRANK, MA, RANKING MEMBER

PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PA
MAXINE WATERS, CA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NY
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ, IL
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, NY
MELVIN L. WATT, NC
GARY L. ACKERMAN, NY
DARLENE HOOLEY, OR
JULIA CARSON, IN
BRAD SHERMAN, CA
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NY
BARBARA LEE, CA
JAY INSLEE, WA
DENNIS MOORE, KS
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO, MA
HAROLD E. FORD, Jr., TN

RUBÉN HINOJOSA, TX
KEN LUCAS, KY
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NY
WILLIAM LACY CLAY, MO
STEVE ISRAEL, NY
MIKE ROSS, AR
CAROLYN MCCARTHY, NY
JOE BACA, CA
JIM MATHESON, UT
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MA
BRAD MILLER, NC
RAHM EMANUEL, IL
DAVID SCOTT, GA
ARTUR DAVIS, AL
CHRIS BELL, TX
BERNARD SANDERS, VT

HERBERT U. FOSTER III
STAFF DIRECTOR

October 29, 2004

Mr. Armando Falcon, Jr.
Director
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight
1700 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Mr. Falcon:

I am writing about a recent report prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General (OIG) concerning alleged leaks by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO). I recently requested in writing that the HUD OIG publicly release the report. In its response, the HUD OIG stated that it is prohibited by the Privacy Act of 1974 from publicly releasing the report, and further stated that OFHEO personnel to whom the report pertains have not provided to OIG written consent to disclose it.

While I understand that the Privacy Act requires the consent of individuals named in the report, I believe it is a mistake to keep the contents of the report secret. Just as I argued in similar circumstances that OFHEO's report on possible problems at Fannie Mae should be made public, a similar principle of transparency should be applied to the report about OFHEO. Accordingly, I request that those individuals identified in the report provide the OIG with written consent to disclose the report and that they be afforded an opportunity to respond. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.


BARNEY FRANK